1	2	3	4	5
1995-96	101412.33	2980.35	67715.49	2498.63
1996-97 (Upto Dec.'96)	44599.75	1911.95	19949.46	1024.11

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the number of pending applications with the nationalised banks in Kerala under PMRY as at the end of December, 1996 was 2268.

NTC Showrooms

100. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees working at the Showrooms of NTC (SM) and NTC (MN) Ltd. are paid different pay scales in different showrooms/mill gate shops;

(b) whether the said issue was discussed by the Board of Directors of National Textiles Corporation Ltd.;

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Chief Managing Director of NTC (SM) Ltd. has submitted a proposal to resolve the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the decision taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal Policy

101. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new integrated coal policy is no the anvil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the policy are as under :

(i) Degregulation of the prices and distribution of D Grade of non-coking coal, hard coke and soft coke with immediate effect.

(ii) Allowing Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to fix the prices of E, F, and G Grades of non-coking coal till 1st January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

(iii) Allowing CIL and SCCL to fix the prices of E, F and G Grades of non-coking coal in relation with the market prices and to distribute these grades of coal after 1st January, 2000.

(iv) Setting up of an independent body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

(v) Allocation of new blocks on the basis of a competitive bidding process in which Indian companies including nationalised coal companies may participate.

Economic Cooperation with China

102. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to establish economic cooperation with China;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have identified new ways and areas to establish Indo-China economic ties, and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Steps taken towards improving India-China economic relations include the setting up of a Joint Economic Group headed by Minister for External Affairs on the Indian side and the Minister for foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation on the Chinese side. The JEG, has been functioning since 1988 and the Sixth session of the JEG, is scheduled in early 1997.

Both countries extend to each other MFN status, a number of agreements have been signed between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade and economic cooperation, these include an Agreement, on Avoidance of Double Taxation, Air Services Agreement, Shipping Agreement, an MoU on Banking Relations and several MoUs on functional cooperation covering different sectors like forestry, environment, coal, agriculture, Science & Technology etc. have been concluded.

A Joint Business Council has been established with FICCI and China Council for promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). The CII has also signed an MoU with All China Federation of Industry and Commerce and with CCPIT.

Border Trade is progressing through Pithoragarh in U.P. and Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh.

Trade has been growing with China and in 1995-96 it was of the order of Rs. 1097 crores (Exports) and Rs. 2732 crores (Imports).

[Translation]

Remote Computer Look in Terminal Facility

103. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of such Banks in Maharashtra where 'Remote Computer Look-in Terminal facility' has been introduced;